

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 250 by Representative Morris

TRANSPORTATION: Restructures offices within DOTD

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Establishes and provides for the Housing and Transportation Planning and Coordinating Commission as an advisory committee within DOTD.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

**Abstract:** Restructures offices within the Dept. of Transportation and Development and establishes and provides for the Housing and Transportation Planning Coordinating Commission within the Dept. of Transportation and Development.

Present law provides that DOTD shall be composed of several offices including the office of planning and programming and the office of public works and intermodal transportation.

Proposed law renames the office of planning and programming as the office of multimodal planning.

Proposed law eliminates the office of public works and intermodal transportation and transfers its duties to the office of multimodal planning and the office of engineering.

Present law provides for the officers of DOTD to include an assistant secretary of planning and programming and an assistant secretary of public works and intermodal transportation.

Proposed law renames the assistant secretary of planning and programming as the assistant secretary of multimodal transportation.

Proposed law eliminates the position of assistant secretary of public works and intermodal transportation and provides for his duties to be completed by the chief engineer and the assistant secretary of multimodal planning.

Proposed law provides that the duties of the office of public works and intermodal transportation relating to the public works functions of the state related to flood and drainage control, reclamation, water resources, soil conservation, mapping, disaster relief, and the National Flood Insurance Program will be under the auspices of the office of engineering.

Proposed law provides that the duties of the office of public works and intermodal transportation relating to aviation, public transportation, public mass transit, and railroad and water transportation systems will be under the auspices of the office of the multimodal planning.

Proposed law creates the Housing and Transportation Planning and Coordinating Commission as an advisory committee within the Dept. of Transportation and Development. Provides that the primary purpose of the commission will be to advise the department and the office of community development in the division of administration in coordinating the integration of the planning and spending by local governments, parish governing authorities, redevelopment authorities, and the department on housing and transportation needs. Provides that the commission shall recommend multiple modes of transportation and multiple types of housing developments to be planned so as to provide planned rational growth, more fully integrated and livable communities, and effective spending of public funds for the betterment of life for Louisiana citizens.

Proposed law provides for a 15-member commission to serve without salary or

reimbursement other than compensation or reimbursement provided by their individual employers. Provides that the commission shall elect a chairman and officers as it deems necessary from its members. Provides the commission shall be staffed by the staffs of the department and the office of community development.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall create a statewide housing plan for state agencies and conduct a parish-by-parish assessment of housing once every five years and the statewide housing plan shall be updated based on the most recent assessment.

Proposed law provides that the assessments shall document the following:

- (1) The overall supply of housing including single-family, multi-family, special needs, and institutional housing.
- (2) The conditions of the housing stock.
- (3) The housing cost burden in each parish.
- (4) The access to transit and job centers in each parish or metropolitan planning area.

Proposed law provides that as part of the assessment that the commission shall hold not fewer than three public hearings in each region of the state to provide for citizens participation in the development of the plan. In each region, each such hearing shall be held at a different time of day and on a different day of the week from the other meetings in that region in order to maximize the opportunity for citizen participation. Members of the commission shall be invited guests to the public hearings.

Proposed law provides that the commission, at regular intervals and in public meetings, to update the department and the office of community development on the progress of the development of the statewide housing plan and maintenance thereof or any updates thereto. Requires that the commission also submit the developed plan, or once the plan is developed any recommended updates to such plan, to the department and the office of community development for approval, approval with comments, or rejection at a schedule determined by the department or the office of community development. Provides that any plan or update which is rejected by the department or the office of community development shall not be incorporated into the statewide housing plan.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall advise and provide recommendations to the department and the office of community development in the following areas:

- (1) Planning and housing regions of the state.
- (2) Public and alternative transportation needs. Such recommendation may include alternative modes of transportation including public transit, bus rapid transit, and rail and bicycle paths.
- (3) Estimates on low and moderate income housing needs.
- (4) Criteria and guidelines for parishes and municipalities to determine and address their local affordable housing needs, to promote consistency and uniformity in the information obtained and reported.
- (5) Criteria and guidelines for parish, municipalities, and redevelopment authorities, and metropolitan planning organizations to coordinate and address local and regional transportation needs, to promote consistency and uniformity in the information obtained and reported.
- (6) Schedule and establish criteria to review housing and transportation plans for parishes and municipalities, and provide technical assistance to those parishes and

municipalities unable to develop plans consistent with the established criteria and guidelines to determine consistency with established criteria and guidelines to address local affordable housing and transportation needs.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 36:501(C)(1), 502(A) and (B), 508(A), 508.1(A), (B), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 36:509(I) and R.S. 40:600.81; Repeals R.S. 36:508.3)